

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

21st April, 2021

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!
From your dwelling you water the hills; earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve man's needs,
that he may bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer man's heart;
oil, to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works! He looks on the earth and it trembles;
the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.
I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord.
Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.
Bless the Lord, my soul!

LITANY OF PRAISE:

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are!

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 2:19-22

So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors; you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are a part of the building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus Himself for its main cornerstone. As every structure is aligned on Him, all grow into one holy temple in the Lord, and you too, in Him, are being built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit.
The word of the Lord.

REFLECTION: (David Parry OSB)

God's plan of salvation is personal but also it is corporate, He saves us through the corporation that is His Body. Many gifts are for use in common and that implies a community of persons. Equally, virtues are employed in community. The community can then be the instrument through which we mature spiritually. Many virtues are called forth by community living: unselfishness, sympathy, self-sacrifice, humility, and generosity. In community we have the chance to share our virtues, help one another with our burdens, and be loving with one another in our weaknesses.

Every Christian needs community to practise the fullness of his Christian life. He feels the inner force of the apostolic teaching and will want to be part of a community which the Holy Spirit keeps fully alive. It is in the united prayer of those who gather together in Christ's name that the gifts of the Spirit come to the community. Ideally this is a normal social grouping – a religious house or a parish. Whatever his position, the Christian is called to give to his community to the full extent of his power. His basic helpfulness to the group will not lie in ministerial gifts, but on that other list of spiritual fruit 'love, joy, peace, patience . . .' which will include humility. Indeed, humility is the surest sign of all that the Spirit is at work. Mary knew this when she lifted up her voice and sang: *My soul glorifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on His servant in her lowliness. . .*

Lowliness, joy, the praise of God, these are the first gifts which we must try to bring to our community!

INTERCESSIONS:

Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

CLOSING PRAYER: (Pat Sayles SSC)

**Breathe on me, Holy Spirit, that I may have your life.
Rest on me, Holy Spirit, that I may have your peace.
Live in me, Holy Spirit, that I may have your friendship.
Counsel me, Holy Spirit, that I may have your wisdom.
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may have your fire.
Purify me, Holy Spirit, that I may have your love.**

Amen.

